

WATER MATTERS

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Nine ideas to
create a lush
desert landscape
that uses water
efficiently, attracts
pollinators, helps
to save money,
and adds color
and shade.

*(See Infographic,
pg. 4–7)*



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A *lush* LANDSCAPE IN THE DESERT!?

YES! You can create a colorful, lush landscape in the desert – without dramatically increasing your water bill. Find tips below, and a list of resources on the back of this newsletter.

✓ Shade trees

Use native or drought-tolerant trees to shade your house, patio, and plants that thrive in partial shade. Use deciduous trees on the south side of your home to block sun in the summer but let it in during the winter.

✓ Planting zones

Group plants with similar water needs together to irrigate more efficiently. For instance, plant flowers and leafy shrubs in a tree's watering zone; drought-hardy cactus and succulents can add texture and green to your landscape outside of irrigation and water harvesting zones.

✓ Gutter system

A gutter system will direct runoff into swales and basins.

✓ Water Harvesting

Collect rainfall runoff in earthen basins to increase plant growth and reduce irrigation needs.

✓ Pollinator plants

Attract pollinators – bees, birds, butterflies, insects, and bats – with flowering plants.

✓ Native plants

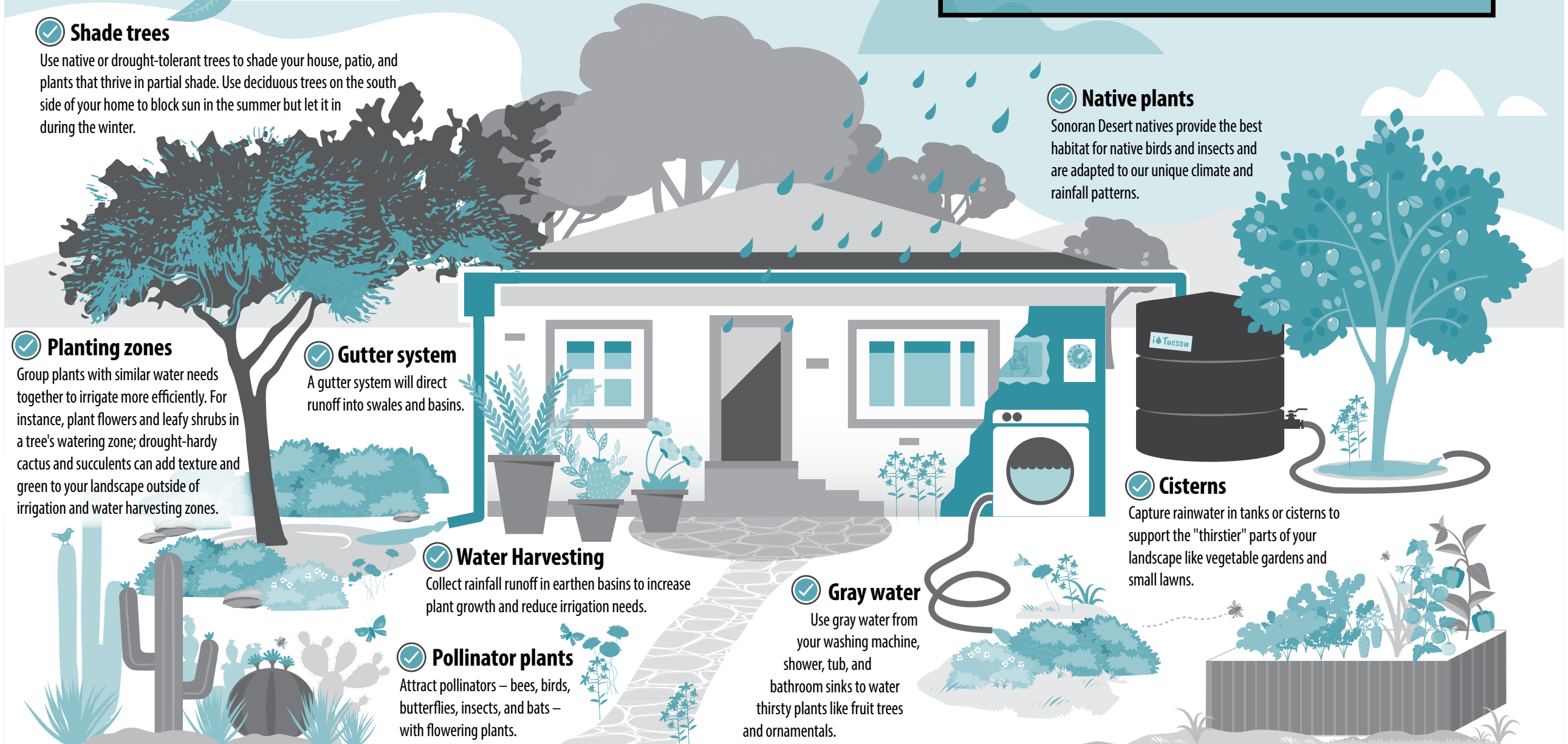
Sonoran Desert natives provide the best habitat for native birds and insects and are adapted to our unique climate and rainfall patterns.

✓ Cisterns

Capture rainwater in tanks or cisterns to support the "thirstier" parts of your landscape like vegetable gardens and small lawns.

✓ Gray water

Use gray water from your washing machine, shower, tub, and bathroom sinks to water thirsty plants like fruit trees and ornamentals.



CONNECT TO THESE RESOURCES FOR A **lush** WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE



Click tucsonaz.gov/water/landscape for free brochures, downloads & links:



Water by the Weather (PDF) provides watering guidelines based on plant and soil type and local climate information to help determine monthly watering schedules for trees, shrubs, and grass.



The Low Water Use/Drought Tolerant Plant list, compiled by the Arizona Department of Water Resources for the Tucson Area, (PDF) is a comprehensive list by plant type, water use, growing season, flower color, cold hardiness temperature, toxicity, allergenicity, and more.



Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert (link) amwua.org/plants click for an easy sort by plant size and sun requirements. Also offers visuals on colorful landscapes with background info on the plants pictured.



Drip Irrigation: Basics by Ursula Schuch (PDF) learn about irrigation equipment & zones.

Rainwater harvesting and gray water system

info, rebates, classes and more at

tucsonaz.gov/water/residential-rebates

Free Smartscape classes help residents to create water-efficient landscapes compatible with our urban desert environment plus help your qualify for a rainwater harvesting or gray water system rebate. Go to cals.arizona.edu/pima/smartscape/smartscape-residential for class schedules and registration.

Plant native shade trees for energy savings & more:

tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org/trees-for-tucson.

CITY OF TUCSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Recycle Old Electronics

Old electronics or “e-waste” is the fastest growing source of trash, totaling nearly 50 million tons in 2018! Computers, stereos, televisions and smartphones can be refurbished or recycled, yet a significant amount ends up in landfills.

Here’s how you can keep e-waste out of landfills:

- On the first Saturday of each month, visit the Household Hazardous Waste collection site. (No TVs or CRT monitors, please.) Find more info at tucsonaz.gov/hhw.
- Look for drop-off bins at electronics stores.
- Use the Tucson Clean & Beautiful Recycling Directory to find e-waste drop-off locations. Visit tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org/recycling-education/recycling-directory or call (520) 791-5000.



PIMA COUNTY WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

Pima County has been in a **20**-year drought! Please remember to **CONSERVE** water! Using less water will **SAVE** you money on your water and sewer bill. **START** by installing water efficient products or by utilizing these water conservation practices:



Install high efficiency toilets



Fix any water pipe leaks



Plant drought resistant plants



Wash full loads of clothes/dishes



Turn water OFF when brushing teeth or shaving



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Nextdoor

Your utilities services statement includes fees for your water, environmental services, and wastewater.

Environmental Services (ES) (520) 791-3171 or visit tucsonaz.gov/environmental-services

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) (520) 724-6609 or visit pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation